(d) if so, the reasons for which Government is not disbanding the allotment of small mining blocks?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY): (a) to (c) Economic viability of mining operation depends on demand for a particular mineral in the market, accessibility to the deposit, depth and thickness of the deposit, method of mining and equipment and machinery used for mining, and not necessarily on the size of the mining lease. However, in order to ensure systematic and scientific mining of major minerals for optimum utilization of the mineral resources, the government has prescribed minimum size of mining lease at four hectares in respect of all major minerals, except for beach sand minerals where the minimum area limit is two hectares, and for small deposits which are shallow in nature, isolated and do not exceed more than 200 meters in strike length, the minimum area is one hectare.

(d) Does not arise in view of the reply given to (a) to (c) above.

Increasing the target for Power Generation

156. SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA: Will the Minister of NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has drafted a model renewable energy law to increase the target for electricity generation via this route to 10 per cent by 2010, as against 2012 currently and 20 per cent by 2020, of the total power generated in the country;

(b) whether country has an installed capacity of 10,406.69 mw, against the global capacity of 2,00,000 mw renewable electricity generation;

(c) whether the law envisages making renewable electricity purchases obligatory by mandating electricity utilities to purchase from renewable sources, and it also calls for stringent penalties in case of violation; and

(d) by when a final decision is likely to be taken?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY (SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR): (a) No, Sir. However, grid-interactive renewable power installed capacity in the country at the end of the 10th Plan, i.e., upto 31.3.2007 was 10,250 MW or about 7.75 per cent of the then total installed capacity of around 1,32,329 MW in the country. Further capacity addition of 14,000 MW has been proposed during the 11th Plan. Thus, by the end of the 11th Plan grid-interactive renewable power installed capacity is likely to cross 24,000 MW or about 12 percent of the then likely total installed capacity of around 2,00,000 MW.

(b) Grid-interactive renewable power installed capacity in the country has reached 11,063 MW as on 31.10.2007.

(c) Does not airse. However, the Electricity Act 2003, National Electricity Policy 2005 and Tariff Policy 2006 make it obligatory upon State Electricity Regulatory Commissions to fix certain percentage for purchase of power from renewable energy sources in the area of a distribution licensee and to fix preferential tariffs for the same.

(d) does not arise.